creation of the genius of worship, the grandest edifice is a
gopuram, the noblest monument is a mausoleum, the **SULO-**
limest verse is a hymn, the pleasantest journey is a pilgrima&e,
the happiest assembly is a congregation.
Again, worship is the very life-blood of every religioz^
constitution. It is the very foundation of the whole edifi<^
of human faith. It is the royal road to Heaven. It is **tiae**
cypher-key for opening the gates of the City of God. It is th.^
passport for prompt admission into the abodes of immortality-
It is a Pillar of Cloud and a Pillar of Fire to guide us across the-
wilderness of this world. It is the unerring clue to the pex'-
plexing labyrinth of this life. It enables us to present on-c
invincible front to all the temptations of the flesh, to overcon-io
with an irresistible force all the allurements of the world and
to face unflinchingly all the threats of ungodly power. Above"
all, it sets before us the lofty ideal of self-abnegation, self-
denial, self-restraint, self-sacrificing love in, the place of the
degrading obsession of self-aggrandisement, self-glorilication,
self - indulgence, and self-interest which had aforetime
beguiled and enslaved us. In one word, worship is a ready
and loving d ^.cation of human energies to the service of the

world as a natural concomitant to the Love of God.

Finally, the end and goal of all worship is to make and shape the devotee into the image of the Deity that nau^lxt. may .remain of-his own self. I shall illustrate this by a thrilling anecdote which Brahma Rishi .Venkata Ratnam was used to drill repeatedly into the ears of his pupils.

In the early days of Mahammadan inroads into tl'ii-s country, a certain town was sacked by Mahammadan troops ; and as was the practice then, a rush was inad'a towards tlie temple, that it. might be pulled down as a sort of tributes and honour to the Lord of hosts who had given the Islamic arms the victory of the day. there was a priestess attached to the temple. She ran in, embraced the idol, pressed it **to** her bosom, held it close to her heart, clung to it with **tlxo**